(d) the measures taken to control environmental crisis in the region during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Talcher-Angul region of Orissa has been identified as one of the 24 environmental problem areas in the country.

(b) to (d) Brief details of steps taken to mitigate the environmental impacts and to control environmental degradation in the area are given in the Statement below.

Statement

Steps taken to mitigate the environmental impacts and to control environmental degradation in Talcher-Angul region of Orissa.

1. The Talcher-Angul region was studied in-depth and an environmental action plan prepared in 1990. This included implementation of specific pollution control measures by various industries located in the region such as National Aluminium Company Limited, National Thermal Power Corporation and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.
2. The pollution control status of the area was reviewed by Central Pollution Control Board in 1995. Further, the environmental status was studied by Central Pollution Control Board through Orissa State Pollution Control Board and a status report was prepared in 2000. The study has *inter-alia* indicated that the water quality of Brahamani river as well as the ambient air quality in the region have improved.
3. Various measures have been taken to mitigate the environmental hazards of industrialization including mandatory environmental clearance under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, environmental monitoring of the industries and implementation of unit-wise pollution control schemes such as 100% recycling of the ash pond over flow and augmentation of Electrostatic Precipitators in the Thermal Power plants, installation of waste water treatment facilities in the coal mines and provision of drinking water facilities to the affected villages.

Appointment of Hindi Teachers in Assam

*32. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN ESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and released to the Assam Government by the

Union Government for the year 2000-2001, for appointment of Hindi teachers in high schools;

(b) whether an amount of Rs.2,70,95,949/- was released as second instalment for payment of salaries to 1100 Hindi teachers in the State;

(c) if so, whether the amount has been disbursed; and

(d) if not, why the Hindi teachers of high schools in the State are not getting their monthly salaries for the last 18 months?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) A total amount of Rs.5,38,40,949/- was sacntioned to the Government of Assam during 2000-2001 towards the salaries of 1100 Hindi teachers under the scheme of Appointment & Training of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/UTs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Govt. of India released the grant of an amount of Rs.267.45 lakhs and Rs.2,70,95,949/- as first and second instalment on 20.12.2000 and 30.3.2001 respectively. The Utilization Certificate of the first instalment has been received whereas the Utilization Certificate of the 2nd instalment of grant has not been received from the Govt. of Assam in spite of several reminders. According to the existing policy further funds/grants are not released unless utilization certificates are received in respect of previous grants released to the State/UTs. The actual disbursement of the salaries is the responsibility of the State. Govt.

Educationally disadvantageous groups in Andhra Pradesh

*33. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to find out the educationally disadvantaged groups in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the findings of such a survey; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure that education reaches to these groups of rural areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Surveys and studies have been periodically